

3149 Co. 30 Blvd.  
Kenyon, MN 55946  
Tel. 507-789-6826  
July 20, 2009

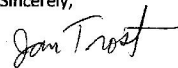
Scott Ek, Dept. of Commerce  
MN Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place E., Suite # 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Attention Scott Ek,

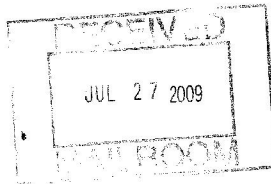
I am writing to you to let you know that I do not want the CapX 2020 transmission lines running across Holden Township in Minnesota.

- I-285-001** We do not need extra energy here or nearby, there is a decline in energy use in this area including Holden Township due to new technology. We do not need energy carried a long way and losing a large percentage of that just by sending it that distance – that is poor use of energy money. There are new, better and more efficient ways to produce energy (including nuclear) and probably new discoveries in the making. This would be foolish if this is supposed to be a line that travels all the way to the east coast, for so much energy would be lost along the way and so much land and natural resources would be wasted. There could be less obtrusive sources closer to the users with less expensive transport; and I don't want to be part of this frivolous waste when there are other options and answers.
- I-285-002** It is a shame to even think of having transmission lines here in prime farming land. That is a waste of natural resources and a penalty imposed on small farmers in this area that have a difficult time anyway to make a living in farming. There is a delicate balance with cost of seed, chemicals, fuel, and time; mixed with weather and growing conditions; and the health and production of animals; and market values. To have another obstacle such as land taken away or sick animals or infertile animals, or animals that miscarry or contaminated animals and crops because of transmission leaks is a burden these farmers do not need. It would mean their demise.
- I-285-003** I am concerned about my own health and that of my family and grandchildren. There has not been enough research into the long range effects of the magnetic fields and emissions. Devastating effects have been noted on pace makers and implants, and more. Life and health are too precious to put into jeopardy.
- I-285-004** Electrical appliances and TV will experience interference. Emissions will affect the life of machinery and vehicles (and create another burden for farmers).
- There is a natural beauty in this county and it is the envy of other areas and it is a desirable place where many people would say they would like to live. There are trees, waterways, vital wetlands, patchwork of cropped fields, streams, wildlife, nice natural skylines with beautiful sunrise and sunset scenes. Wouldn't it be a shame to destroy this unnecessarily!!!! - just on some company's greed and thoughtless whim!
- I-285-005** If for some reason the lines have to go through, pick an existing corridor like highway 52.

Sincerely,



Jan Trost  
A land & animal farmer, nature & health  
lover, and common sense citizen



### I-285-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

### I-285-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### I-285-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### I-285-004

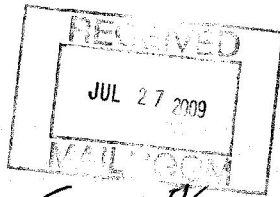
Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### I-285-005

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-285-004.

### I-285-006

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment



Mark Lenway  
P.O. Box 23  
Kenyon, MN 55946

July 3, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my wish that those who have the power to do so, act on my request to oppose the proposed plan to bring CapX 2020 transmission lines through Holden Township and throughout the state. I believe that there is no need this for project.

I-285-009

- Need should be based on what OUR state needs; not what is needed in LaCrosse or points east of.
- Coal is considered to be an environmentally unsatisfactory energy source because of gaseous (ie: CO<sub>2</sub> SO<sub>2</sub> NO<sub>x</sub> and volatile metals) and solid waste products (ie: fly ash, bottom ash, FGD sludge).
- Combined with the +20% compounded loss that occurs when transporting over lines that stretch hundreds of miles it makes this proposed project unsavory at best.

I-285-010

On a local level, Holden Township has maintained a rural, agriculturally based economy because the residents have worked hard to insure that it is kept that way. The township has adopted resolutions that specifically address the preservation of its farmland. The community is active in preserving the heritage of the area agriculturally, environmentally, historically, socially, and as much so on the basis of esthetics.

I-285-011

- Agriculturally, there are many residents in our area who have struggled to maintain small farms that have been in the family for more than 150 years. They do so because they value this way of life. If the proposed transmission line goes through Holden Township, these small farms lose a greater percentage of their small fields to the inefficiencies of scale. Historically it has been an uphill battle for Minnesota's small farmers and the proposed transmission lines through Holden Township will only perpetuate the decreasing viability of our areas' small farms.

I-285-012

- Swaths 150' wide running hundreds of miles across the state along the path of these lines will be bulldozed and maintained cut free of trees as a ROW for transmission lines thus removing woodland habitat from our state's precious natural resources. By running these transmission lines down 56 through Holden Township rather than along the already established Highway 52 corridor, yet more woodland is destroyed and destroyed in a part of the state where woodland habitat is at a premium for our local hunters.

I-285-013

- Historically, we live in a part of the state that acts as a living museum for the small farming community much in the same way as re-enactments of

caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

#### I-285-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural and water resources, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, and aesthetics will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

#### I-285-008

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

#### I-285-009

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

#### I-285-010

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-285-014

other historical events depict history. We live with such landmarks as the stagecoach stop (which is currently being renovated), the local country schoolhouse, century old churches with strong, active memberships, and small rural towns where business can be conducted with a handshake over a cup of coffee at the local coffee shop. This kind of historical "landmark" may not be obvious as a tangible part of the argument against transmission lines but can be easily vandalized by the sight of 150' towers and lines slicing their way through the countryside. There are those who may be forced to significantly alter or abandon a way of life that acts as this living history for all of us.

I-285-015

- Socially, our community acts and reacts to unsavory pressures that destroy or encumber our hard earned assets under the guise of "eminent domain". Public utilities are unique in that they are exempt from many of the eminent domain laws (chapter 117) restricting the taking of lands from one to give to another. In our view, this does not make the PUC answerable to the public for whom they serve.
- Esthetically we live among rolling wooded hills, oak savannahs, beautiful creek valleys, small farm fields, and pasture ground. We have chosen a quality of life that is reflected in these quiet esthetics. Just as others value a different life that reflects their particular needs, we have chosen the simplicity and fierce independence that we feel comes with and is unique to our area. It is not right that lifestyle choices of others should be granted preference over ours. We have listened to the representatives from CapX and have concluded that since they have not been willing to discuss the issue of need for points beyond Rochester and LaCrescent, we can only conclude that the need is NOT within our own state but with points east of us. Do we really want our state raped by a project that does nothing to enhance our own quality of life?

I-285-016

Sincerely,  
Mark Lenway

*PLEASE DON'T ALLOW THIS TO  
HAPPEN TO OUR STATE*

#### I-285-011

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

#### I-285-012

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

#### I-285-013

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process along with potential impacts to recreation will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

#### I-285-014

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

#### I-285-015

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would pay for land rights based on an independent appraisal and will work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process. If an agreement cannot be reached between a utility and the landowner, a utility may pursue a state-governed process called

condemnation, under which a judge and a panel of impartial individuals decide whether the easement is needed and its value. The condemnation process varies from state to state. In general, states establish strict procedures for determining the amount a landowner should be paid by a utility for acquiring a right for construction and maintenance of a transmission line. A government's right to acquire – or authorize the acquisition of private property for public use, with just compensation being given to the owner, is called eminent domain. In some states when a transmission line crosses a rural property, a landowner, under certain conditions, may request that the utility purchase the entire property.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

**I-285-016**

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.